



Facts You Need to Know About the 2017 Convention

(Revised March 15, 2017)

Whether you are attending the Florida State Convention for the very first time or you are a veteran at attending our conventions, this information is for you! Please take time to review these facts.

DATES: March 24 – 25, 2017 (Friday morning through Saturday evening)

LOCATION: The Lakeland Center, 701 W. Lime Street, Lakeland, Florida

HOURS:

Friday:

- 9:00 a.m. - Registration opens
- 9:30 a.m. – Round Dance Halls open
- 10:00 a.m. - Vendors open
- 10:00 a.m. – Square Dance Halls open
- 12:00 n – 1:00 p.m. – Halls **closed** for lunch
- 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Dance halls open
- 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Halls **closed** for dinner
- 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. - Seating for entertainment
- 6:30 p.m. – Opening Ceremonies, Introductions, and Entertainment
- 7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. - Dance Halls open
- 10:05 p.m. - Musical Highlights and 50/50 drawing

Saturday:

- 9:00 a.m. - Registration opens
- 9:00 a.m. - Vendors open
- 9:30 a.m. – Round Dance Halls open
- 10:00 a.m. – Square Dance Halls open
- 12:00 n – 1:00 p.m. – Halls **closed** for lunch
- 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Dance halls open
- 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Halls **closed** for dinner

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- 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. - Seating for entertainment
- 6:30 p.m. – Invocation, Pledge, Awards, “Pass the Torch,” Kickoff of the 64th Convention, and Closing Ceremonies
- 7:15 p.m. – First Dance with Florida Callers Association (FCA) President
- 7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. - Dance Halls open
- 10:05 p.m. - Musical Highlights and 50/50 drawing

A more detailed dance schedule is available at www.floridasquaredance.com and printed copies will be available at the convention.

DANCE LEVELS: **Squares:** Mainstream, Plus, DBD, and Advance. **Rounds:** Phases 2 – 4

CALLERS AND CUERS: All callers are members of the Florida Callers Association and all cuers are members of the Round Dance Council of Florida, and they are all donating their time. All programmed callers submitted their completed profiles in September 2016, and cuers submitted their Notifications of Intent to Cue in December 2016. Things happen, and sometimes callers and/or cuers have to cancel for one reason or another. Since the dance schedule is printed so far in advance, it may not match with the actual dance schedule at the convention. Please check the easels outside each room for the current schedule.

BADGES: All dancers, callers, and cuers must wear name badges and convention ribbons to gain access to all the dance halls during the entire convention.

RIBBONS: Ribbons are required for entrance into any session or room of the convention. They serve as your tickets to the convention. Each ribbon has two-sided tape so that you can attach your ribbon to the back of your name badge.

TRAIL-END IN DANCE: **Thursday, March 23, 2017** - Strawberry Square, 4401 Promenade Boulevard, Plant City. The dance fee is by donation. Early Rounds: 7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Mainstream, Plus, and Advance with Rounds between tips: 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Caller: Jack Lewis, Convention Caller Chairman, and Bill Chesnut, Convention Assistant Chairman. Cuers: Joanne Helton, Convention Cuer Chairmen, and Chuck Ryall, Convention Assistant Cuer Chairman.

SPECTATORS: Spectators are always welcome. Please let your friends and family know that they need to pick up a ribbon(s) at the registration window. They are free of charge.

REGISTRATION: Registration is \$27 per person in advance for the entire weekend. This price will be honored until the Trail-End Dance on Thursday night. The price at the door is \$30 per person for the entire weekend. If you do not plan to come for the entire weekend, split prices are available. Split ribbons are only available at the ticket window at the convention.

ATTIRE: Casual during the day; no tank tops or short shorts. Square dance attire is preferred for the evening sessions. Friday night is the night to wear convention colors (black and white). Since there will be no Grand March on Saturday night, club colors are optional. Black and white is always acceptable this weekend.

FOODSERVICE: The only foodservice available in the Lakeland Center is the snack bar in our area of the Center. There are also beverage machines near the concession stand. The Lakeland Center policy is no outside food or beverages allowed in the Center. All food and beverages must be purchased from the Center snack bar or from their vending machines. Coffee will be available starting at 10:00 a.m., and sandwiches and snacks will be available until 2:00 p.m.

DANCE SCHEDULE: The dance schedule is now available at www.floridasquaredance.com and was published in the March issue of the *Bow & Swing*. Printed copies will also be available at the convention.

PROGRAM BOOKS: When you arrive at the Lakeland Center, please be sure to pick up a program book, which contains ads for various businesses around the state. When you visit any of these businesses, please let them know you are a square dancer.

GRAND MARCH: There will not be a Grand March this year.

HOST HOTEL/CAMPGROUNDS: Imperial Swan Hotel & Suites, 4141 S Florida Avenue, Lakeland (be sure to request the square dance rate). There are numerous other hotels and campgrounds in the area; several are listed on the registration flyer or at <http://floridasquaredance.com/convention/62/housing.html>. Dry camping is available at the Lakeland Center for \$35 per night¹.

PENGUINS WITHOUT PARTNERS (Singles/Solos): The Plus hall will have well-marked Penguins without Partners section. If you need a partner, please sit in this section so you can meet the others needing partners. Free Solo ribbons will be available at the registration window.

VENDORS: The vendors currently scheduled to attend are Avant Dance Shoes, Creative Crafts by Lorraine Inc., Gifts in Motion, Sew-Em-Up Fashions, Shamrock Shine, Suzie Q Creations, and Welton rocks, Gems & Jewelry. This list is subject to change.

LAST SQUARE STANDING: Everyone is welcome to participate in the “Competition Squares” or “Last Square Standing.” Come as a square or as an individual, and form your square when you get there. Dance level will be Mainstream. Practice is on Friday at 3:00 p.m. in the Fun Hall. The “competition” is on Saturday at 3:00 p.m. in the Plus Exhibition Hall. There will be an award for the last square standing.

¹ Subject to change. Rates established by the City of Lakeland.

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DANGLE DANCES: Dangle dances are scheduled on Friday and Saturday from 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Fun Hall. During this time, each tip will have a theme and you will be asked to do something related to that theme while you are dancing. For your efforts, you will receive a dangle for each tip you participate in.

KICK-OFF: This is the invitation for the next convention. Please plan to attend on Saturday night so you can hear about the theme for the 2018 Convention.

PARKING: The back parking lot of the Lakeland Center is reserved for square dance convention parking. Since this is only a two-day convention, weekend parking passes are not available. Tickets for one time entry are \$8 each². If you will be coming and going i.e. leaving for lunch or dinner, you will want to purchase a \$10³ ticket so you do not have to pay each time you return to the Lakeland Center.

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